

Message Text

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2305

S E C R E T USNATO 5091

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, NATO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF NATO MINISTERIAL

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD

REF: (A) USNATO 5045

(B) STATE 208334

1. IN DISCUSSING POSSIBILITIES OF CHANGING THE DATES FOR THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL, WE ARE ENCOUNTERING MUCH GOOD-WILL BUT MANY SCHEDULING CONFLICTS. THUS FAR, TWO CERTANTIES HAVE EMERGED:

A) PERMREPS WANT TO SCHEDULE THE MEETING SO THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND;

B) PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH ANY DATES OTHER THAN DECEMBER 10, 11 AND 12 ARE ENORMOUS--PERHAPS INSURMOUNTABLE.

2. AMONG THE ALTERNATIVES THAT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED ARE:

A) 13TH AND 14TH (OUR CHOICE);

B) 11TH AND 12TH;

C) AFTERNOON OF THE 11TH AND 12TH;

D) REVERSE THE DPC AND THE NAC, THUS HAVING THE NAC ON THE 6TH AND 7TH;

E) LEAVE THE DPC ON THE 6TH AND 7TH BUT HAVE NAC ON 3RD AND 4TH.

3. BUT:

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A) COUNCIL OF EUROPE MINISTERIAL MEETS ON THE 13TH AND 14TH;

B) MAJORITY WANTS THE NAC AFTER THE DPC, AS USUAL, BUT NOT TOO LONG AFTER;

C) UK AND CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE ON THE

6TH AND 7TH.

4. AFTER DISCUSSION OF ALL THESE CONSIDERATIONS, FEELING IS DEVELOPING AMONG THE ALLIES THAT DECEMBER 11 (WITH POSSIBLE LATE START OF PROCEEDINGS) AND 12 ARE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVES THAT WILL GIVE YOU THE CHANCE OF ATTENDING AT LEAST PART OF THE OSLO CEREMONIES AND STILL ALLOW YOU TO BE AT THE NAC. THERE IS VERY STRONG FEELING AGAINST ASKING THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO ALTER THE DATES OF ITS MINISTERIAL.

5. DEPUTY SYG PANSA CALLED AFTER NAC MEETING TO SAY THAT THERE IS STRONG CONSENSUS THAT YOU ARRANGE SCHEDULE SO THAT DECEMBER 11 AND 12 ARE ACCEPTABLE TO YOU. HE ADDED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO SORT THIS OUT SOON SO THEY CAN SEEK AGREEMENT ON THE NEW DATES WITH THEIR MINISTERS. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF YOU WOULD SEND FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THIS MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I RECOMMEND THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO WORK IT OUT FOR DECEMBER 11 AND 12
RUMSFELD

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